

# The Colored American

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## AMERICA'S BANNER CLAIM.

Rev. Sterling N. Brown Discusses Our Public Schools and Illustrates the Many and Manifold Lessons They Teach—Duties of the Citizen—The Teacher and Parent Defined.

To-morrow is opening day for our public schools in Washington. Take your stand at any street crossing and see that vast army of light-hearted and happy faced children wending their way to the schoolhouse. See them come from street and alley, from castle and hovel, yes, from homes of affluence and from places of abject poverty. Note their cordial greeting and mutual sympathy as they together take up life's preparation, and the glory of America's public school system is at once suggested and emphasized.

The heritage of this generation is most remarkable and especially so of American youth. The evident progress in art, science, commerce, and material resources is unquestioned. The nation exults over what she calls her priceless, personal liberty, her exalted social prerogatives, her unrestricted religious freedom and her universal political equality. In all these she heartily rejoices and yet for their development and permanence a right popular education is a necessity. Every ordinary man born or naturalized in this country, regardless of race, color, nationality or previous condition is in the spirit of the Republic an equal sovereign and like the most distinguished citizen beneath the Stars and Stripes, feels the dignity of his position. We boast that this is the peculiar genius of our American Government and with prophetic eye gaze into a future that shall more than ever demonstrate its practicability.

### THE FUTURE OF AMERICA.

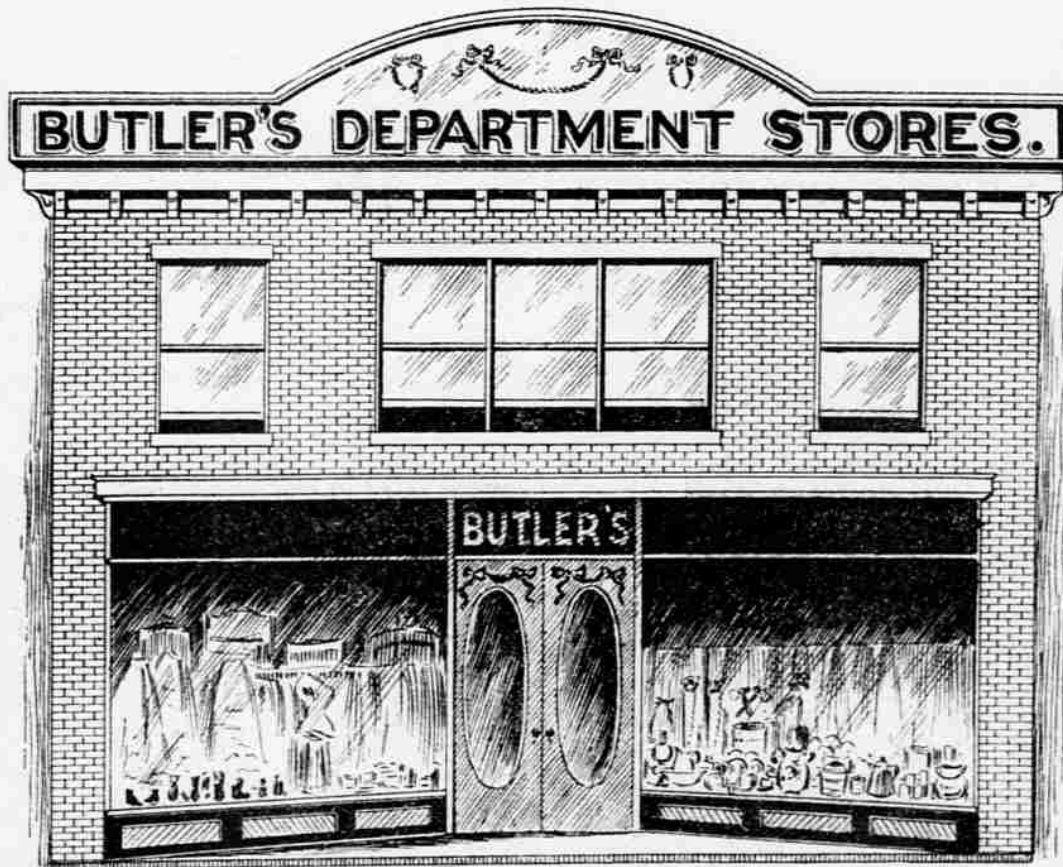
Possibly no nation so young, ever had the confidence imposed in its permanent stability as that of America and yet no intelligent reader of history believes that it is free from danger. The glory of its past, the prosperity of its present and the fair hope of its future give no absolute assurance of what shall really be. In the history of other nations we read the prophecy of our own. If we walk in the light as reflected down the ages, we shall not stumble. Guided by the eternal principles of right and justice, and impelled by the force of an intelligent citizenship the way to the heights of a more glorious Republic is assured.

The bulwark of our nation is the in-

(Continued on fifth page.)



MR. C. AUGUSTUS BUTLER,  
The Leading Afro-American in Business in Annapolis, Md.



## SENATOR FAIRBANKS SPEAKS

He Talks of Past and Present History—The Negro the Romance of American History.

The liberation of the slaves by the Republican party was one of the greatest and most significant events in the history of the Republic. It seems strange to us now that there ever could have been a party in the United States devoted to the maintenance of slavery. The story of slavery reads like fiction; it seems so unreal. The Republican party stands credited with the liberation of the colored people and with their elevation to the full dignity of American citizenship. Not only did it liberate them but it put into their hand the ballot. It has recognized them in official position; it has encouraged them to educate, to become home-builders, and to become fitted for all the duties of good citizenship.

The Republican party has never sought to strike down the colored people. Its effort always has been to build them up and elevate them. The struggle has been a long and tedious one; in some of the States, almost a hopeless one. The Democratic party has steadfastly opposed all measures for granting the elective franchise to the colored people. We have witnessed in some Southern States, notably Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and North Carolina, their almost complete disfranchisement.

During the war with Spain, President McKinley gave the colored people an opportunity to enlist in the service of their country. They desired to fight for the flag that had made them free. He gladly gave them the chance. More than this, he ordered that colored officers should be appointed to serve with the colored troops. The War Department had declined to permit colored officers to be enlisted for the colored troops which Indiana desired to send into the field. When the matter was brought to the attention of the President, he very promptly expressed his profound appreciation of the colored people and his desire to see them advanced in citizenship and patriotism. He felt that the war in which we were engaged was a war for humanity, a war for liberty, and that it was fitting in high degree that those who had been liberated by the courage and valor of our soldiers should be permitted to hold positions of responsibility in the army.

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